



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 5 Issue 3

March 2003

N3SH
WA3SH
WP2AIQ

Wireless Association of South Hills

Snow? What Snow?

WASHFest 2003 WrapUp:

It is difficult to believe that this is our EIGHTH hamfest that I am writing the wrap-up article for, but it is true. More than nine years have passed since that fateful evening in the dining room at *Al's Café* when the idea was tossed around about the **WASH** club (Then known as the South Hills Amateur Radio Club) hosting an indoor winter hamfest.

It still seems like yesterday that we brainstormed our way through another round of desserts and cocktails at Al's rather than brave the wintry storms outside. Eight years later, we have another rousing success under our belts and the first major hamfest of the Pittsburgh area is but a fond memory.

As always, our loyal band of supporters started showing up at the Castle Shannon VFD complex not long after I did at 4 AM. As in years past, we could not gain access to the grounds until 4 AM, so set-up the night before was not possible. Not to worry though, because we had more than enough hands to arrange all the tables, set up the PA system, get the coffee pots brewing and the talk-in station on the air. We actually had people and time to spare. We also put a serious dent in the doughnut supply by 6 AM, but hey, that's only my opinion. Let's see here, hams and free food; draw make your own conclusions.

At 6 AM the vendors started filing in and setting up shop. We didn't quite sell out the hall this year, the first year in recent memory that we didn't sell every table we had. There were a handful of no-shows, no doubt due to the nasty winter squall that arrived at daybreak. Pittsburgh got a very light dusting of snow, surrounding areas weren't so fortunate. The usual flurry of last-minute phone calls to my home on late Saturday evening was about 50 / 50 with table requests and cancellations. By 8 AM we were well above the ¾ mark in occupied tables. The hall filled rapidly with attendees & it stayed pretty well packed the rest of the day.

Did I mention that the coffee was FREE? Few things will get a ham out of his nice cozy chair on a wintry morning like the thought of getting something for nothing. Well, our illustrious Hamfest Co-Chairman Bill Hill, W3WH very graciously underwrote the coffee pots for the whole event. For those of you who don't know Bill, he is also the proprietor of **Ham Radio Insurance Associates of Canonsburg** (HRIA) and his company has done this for us for a number of years. It sure keeps everyone around a while longer. Thanks Bill! And we also had the yummy food presented by the **Hoagie Haven** folks, including Jack's awesome roast beef sandwiches, hot sausage and other goodies to keep everybody sated.

And speaking of thanks, I would be remiss in my responsibilities if I didn't acknowledge the key folks who actually made this event happen. All the planning

and publicity in the world is for naught if we don't have a dedicated corps of helpers to pull it off. If I miss someone, as I inevitably do, please don't feel slighted. I simply didn't walk around with a clipboard and write everyone's names down.

Kudos certainly go out to Jacque and Ed for coordinating the food vendor, and the logistics for the coffee and doughnuts. To Carol, Richie and Bob for yeoman duties at the club table hawking tickets, running the 50-50 and talking up the prizes. To Ron, Ted & Al for running the talk-in station along with their own tables, and to Mark for (as always) being my right-hand and the man with the cash. Duly noted also were ARRL Vice-Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR who braved the elements all the way from Bradford, PA along with his daughter to man the ARRL table; Western PA Section manager John Rodgers, N3MSE also braved the snow and winds to come all the way down from Butler, PA, along with Assistant SM Jeff Leach N3YEA. Special mention to all the early birds on the setup crew: Uncle Ed, who despite his hip problem was on his feet for most of the day, and Dick who not only is one of the first to show EVERY year, he actually took measurements of the hall and drew a scale-drawing of the hall layout for our future use. There were many others, and if I missed mentioning your name, it was not intentional.

I closing, I'd like to thank each and every member of the **WASH** club specifically and the Pittsburgh ham community in general who helped support our hamfest in one way or another. This is what it is all about folks. A little teamwork and cooperation, interspersed with an eye on promoting the hobby. Through your efforts, we were not only able to put together a quality event, but one that was fun, enjoyable, and that helped turn a modest profit to support the club's many upcoming activities. Let's do it again!

— 73, Steve Lane W3SRL
WASHFest 2003 Co-Chairman
And Founder, WASHFest/SHARCfest

NEW MEETING LOCATION!
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DIRECTIONS

Next Meeting: March 13th, 2003

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, March 13th, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Our special guest speaker will be Larry Comden K3VX, discussing homebrew antenna projects — plus **WASHfest** wrap & **Pizza!**

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3BV/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

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WASH FM Net
9:00 PM ET
Sunday Nights
on the 146.955
and 443.650
Repeaters

**March & April
NCS Stations:**

03/02 Carol KB3GMN
03/09 Kevin N3HKQ
03/16 Joseph KB3ENX
03/23 Frank KB3FZU
03/30 Paul NØVLR

04/06 Hank KB3FNH
04/13 Michael KB3HFP
04/20 Bill W3WH
04/27 Carol KB3GMN

Alternates & Backups

Frank KB3FZU
Dave N3IDH
Ron WN3VAW

Want to volunteer to be
a Net Control Station?
Please contact FM Net
Manager Kevin N3HKQ
for more information.

**LOOKING
AHEAD:**

• 52nd Annual
**Dayton
Hamvention
May 16th –
18th**

• 49th Annual
**Breeze-
shooter's
Hamfest
June 1st**

March 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Foothills ARC Hamfest						
2 ARRL DX SSB	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7	8
Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	S H B P & M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPghHFSS SwapnShop Net	Uniontown ARA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARA Net	Elico ARS Meeting	Breezeshooter's VE Test Tri-City WA ARC VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Club Breakfast Foothills ARC Club Breakfast Quad Co ARC Club Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
9	10 Bum of the Month Lunch	11	12	13	14	15 BCARA TechFest
OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARA Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft.Venango M&KC Meeting Punxsatawny Area ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net	North Hills ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VHF Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	WASH Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Uniontown ARA Net		2 Rivers ARC VE Test Horseshoe VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21 First Day of Spring	22 Groundwave SSB
Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	Steel City ARC VE Test Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net	Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Meeting Uniontown ARA Net	2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad Co ARC Meeting	North Hills ARC Elmer Net
2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	24	25	26	27	28	29 WASH Breakfast
OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	Triangle ARC Meeting Mercer Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPghHFSS SwapnShop Net	Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting North Hills ARC Activity Night Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	Penn State ARC Meeting WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARA Net		CQ WPX SSB Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
30 CQ WPX SSB	31	4/1	4/2	4/3	4/4	4/5
OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	S H B P & M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPghHFSS SwapnShop Net	Uniontown ARA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARA Net	Elico ARS Meeting	RA Erie VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net

WASH 2003 OFFICERS

THE LEGAL STUFF

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Acting President Bill Hill W3WH
VP / Secretary Frank Bobro KB3FZU
VP / Treasurer Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee
N3SH / WA3SH QSL Manager
VE Team Liaison
Webmaster
Quartermaster
N3SH/WA3SH WASH Net Managers
FM Net (2 Meter & 70 cm)
Digital Net (10 Meter)
WASHFest 2003 Co-Chairman
(South Hills Hamfest)
Activities & Operating Events
Field Day 2003 Chairman
Ways & Means
Media Communications
Allegheny Co ARES Representative

Steve Lane W3SRL
Paul Lusardi NØVLR
Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Bob Sanford AA3FI
Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI

Kevin Smith N3HKQ
(open)
Steve Lane W3SRL
Bill Hill W3WH
Bill Hill W3WH
Larry Comden K3VX
Carol Danko KB3GMN
Kevin DeRose N3KFD
Ben Williams KB3ERQ

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3RNX/R	146.955 - PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL/R	442.550 +PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3BV/R	Echo Link #26861 (courtesy W3SRL)
		443.650 +PL 131.8

N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.
All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

The **10 METER DIGITAL N3SH/WA3SH WASHNET** is on Hiatus until further notice. Please contact Paul NØVLR for more information.

"The WASHRag™" (formerly **"The Mariner™"**) is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, its members, or its actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3BV/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and its members to use their repeaters for club purposes.
Special thanks also to our webmaster, Bob Sanford AA3FI, and to Ed Wolf N3UE for providing space on-line for back issues of **"The WASHRag™"** which can be found at www.washarc.org or <http://doit.pgh.net/~wolfie/washrag.htm>

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test April 17th!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, April 17th, 2002, 7:00 PM**, at the **John McMillan Presbyterian Church**, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zel@fyi.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of **\$12.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Thursday, July 17th, 2003

Future test dates: Thursday, October 16th, 2003

Thursday, January 15th, 2004

Thursday, April 15th, 2004

Wireless Association's 10th Anniversary 1993 – 2003

This year marks the 10th Anniversary for WASH. Have any favorite stories or tall tales about the early days of the club? Let us know — we hope to be able to run some of those during 2003!

The WASH Breakfast Gang met one day before **WASHFest** on February 22nd at **Dietz's Restaurant** in the Caste Village Shoppes. Present & accounted for were N3ZEI, N3ZNI, W3RJM, W4ZE, KB3GMN, N3SBF, W3RWS, KB3FNM, W3VFA, KB3CPI, K3VX, W3WH & WN3VAW. The table conversations covered **WASHFest** planning (naturally), FISTS, dBases, rigs of all vintages, code speeds, old code practice programs, mailing labels, cable modems, computer viruses, contest antennas, and upcoming WACOM classes — plus more that we didn't take notes on..

Join us next month for these subjects & more, plus a cup of coffee & a good time! The next Club Breakfast will be returning to Washington, to the **Ponderosa Steakhouse**, Wal Mart Plaza, Route 19 & Murtland Avenue, on March 29th; then back to **Dietz's Restaurant** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, on April 26th. See you there!

Reminder Switching breakfast venues: Starting in 2003, we're going to alternate the monthly Club Breakfast site between **Dietz's** and the **Ponderosa**. Even though it's been wildly successful since we started it, some club members simply can't make it every month because of the long drive; this way, we try and give everyone a chance to make it to a more convenient site at least every other month.

Moving: Dave N8DPW has been working from home for an Ohio firm for a few months now. He recently sold his home in Bethel Park and will be moving back to Ohio fairly soon to be closer to work. While we're sorry to see him go, there is some good news on his new home. Seems that his new home was formerly occupied by a ham, and came fully equipped for Dave's use! Good luck Dave at your new QTH, and stay in touch!

Something doesn't look quite right on that masthead... There's been a small change, a little addition. We now have a 3rd club call — **WP2AIQ**, with Paul NP2JF as the trustee. The new call ties in to the club's October USVI trip and related contest and DX operating. The call will also be available to any club member, starting immediately, who will be taking a trip to NP2JF's home (and there have been quite a few already). Yes, that call is a touch awkward, but plans are already in place to upgrade it to an appropriate Vanity call — no, not WP2SH, someone's already taken that one.

On the mend again. Steve W3SRL had to once again undergo back surgery on February 25th. He's already back home and mending, should be back on the job in about 6 weeks.



Foster Home Needed: Mickey, a 10 year old, mutt, friendly, gentle, comfortable around ham shacks, needs a temporary foster home. If anyone can help, please call 412-882-7130

Don't forget! A WASH tradition, the March meeting is **Pizza Night!**, a thank-you to all the club members who helped out at **WASHFest**, fresh, hot pizza will be delivered immediately after the meeting. Come hungry and be ready to devour!!

WASHFest 2003 Main Prize Winners:

1st Prize

Yaesu FT-817 Bill N3BPF

2nd Prize

ICOM IC-207H Dave NO3K

3rd Prize

ICOM IC-V8 Jim (no call)

Congratulations All!

Thank You to One & All Who Attended WASHFest 2003 for helping to make it another success!
— from the **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.** N3SH / WA3SH / WP2AIQ

Minutes, February 13th Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, VP/Secretary, WASH

Mark, N3RDV, called the meeting to order at 19:28 hours. There were 35 members and guests in attendance. The meeting was held at Kings Restaurant on McMurray Road, because of a scheduling conflict with the church.

A moment of silence was observed for recent silent keys and other deserving persons.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January meeting as published in the January newsletter. The motion was made by Dick, N3QMV; seconded by Carol, KB3GMN. It was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Mark reported the club's account balances.

Secretary (KB3FZU): Frank gave a brief reading of hamfest fliers that were received in the mail.

VE Report (N3ZEL): WACOM is sponsoring a ham radio class on March 1,2,8 and 9 with a test following the class on the 9th. The next VE Test will be on March 20th at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church at 7 PM.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): Steve reports that the repeaters are working well, including Echo Link.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): The published schedule for net control stations is working well. Kevin will correspond by e-mail with the net control stations.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): No report.

Public Service (N3RDV): The following events are looking for operators: St Patrick's Day Parade on March 15th, UPMC Health System City of Pittsburgh Marathon on May 4th — Kathy King is the contact person — and the Mothers Day Walk for the Cure in Schenley Park.

Contests (K3VX): Ed, N3ZNI, reported on the 2-Meter contest. A list of scores was passed around. Thanks to all who participated.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): No report.

President's Report (WN3VAW): Mark, N3RDV, read a letter from Ron, WN3VAW. In the letter, Ron resigned as president of the club. Bill, W3WH, will take the role of acting president until a permanent replacement is named. Steve, W3SRL, motioned to table the president replacement until the next meeting. Bob, W3RJM, seconded. It was voted on and passed.

Activities: Steve, W3SRL, reports that things are underway and all is running smoothly for the hamfest.

Old Business: Dan, KB3HVN, is working on the contest mugs. They should be ready soon.

There was discussion about the backup meeting location at the Peters Township Library. It is an 80 person room with kitchen. The facilities need to be cleaned and vacated by 9 PM. Bob, W3RJM, motioned that we move all meetings to the Peters Township Library. Bryan, K3OL, seconded. After discussion the motion was voted on. 20 voted in favor, 5 were opposed and 3 abstaining. The motion passed.

Frank, KB3FZU, will check with the church to see if there is a renewal on file.

New Business: Larry, K3VX, will present his homebrew antenna discussion at the next meeting.

Good of the Order: Ed, N3ZNI, reports that WACOM had the special event call W3C active at the Washington County Sportsmen's Show and made 240 contacts in 43 states. WACOM is also selling calendar tickets for the month of March.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Bill, W3WH, and seconded by Shawn, NØPEU. The motion was voted on and passed. Ed, N3UE, opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:21.

A personal note:

As most of you now know, circumstances forced me to resign as WASH President last month. The new job I had gotten in October did not work out, and as a result of that and other things related to my being out of work for so long prior to that, I have many personal & family issues to deal with that will prevent me from doing a good job until they are sorted out or settled.

I am truly thankful for all of my friends in the club who have offered assistance during this difficult time for me and my family. I am grateful beyond all measure to each and every one of you, and hope I can repay your friendship and trust if and when the time comes.

— 73, Ron WN3VAW

WASH Spotlight: W3C



W3C is the annual Special Event Station run by **WACOM** at the Washington Sportsmen's Show at the Washington Mall in February. From left, Jim KC3HW operates, with Frank KB3FZU and Lori KB3GMU observing. Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZNI

Every month we're going to feature a WASH club member, something about them, or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH** Spotlight. Submissions should be sent to Ron Notarius WN3VAW, wn3vaw@arrl.net

Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, March 29th

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time together!

Starting in 2003, we will be alternating our breakfast locations every month to make it easier for club members to get to at least one of them:

Join us in EVEN-numbered months at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Baptist & Grove Roads in the Caste Village Shops, Whitehall.

Join us in ODD-numbered months at the **Ponderosa Steak House**, Wal-Mart Plaza, US Route 19 @ Murland Road (just off Interstate 70), Washington.

Start time is about 8 AM until whenever.

Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not! See you there!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3FI	KB3FZU	KE3XB	N3RHT	N8DPW	Silent Keys
AA3JS	KB3GMN	KE7FD	N3RNX	W3GEL	K3EED
AB3AB	KB3GMO	KE8RN	N3SBF	W3HND	N3KEH
K3BZW	KB3GMP	KQ3DX	N3SRC	W3JAF	N3OBD
K3LIE	KB3GMU	NØPEU	N3TBK	W3RJM	N3SKR
K3OL	KA3GNT	NØVLR	N3UE	W3RWS	W3ZLK
K3VX	KB3GOT	NØWPV	N3UIW	W3SRL	
K3WR	KB3GZG	N2QIV	N3VEH	W3VE	
K9LZ	KB3GUZ	N3AWF	N3WPT	W3VFA	
KA3PPH	KB3HFP	N3BSQ	N3XFE	W3WH	
KA3TFB	KB3HVN	N3CZZ	N3XI	W4ZE	
KA3TWI	KB3IAC	N3FZ	N3YPB	W8LEV	
KA3UPY	KB3IJX	N3HKQ	N3YQY	WA3JPP	
KA3WZO	KB3IRQ	N3IDH	N3ZCG	WB3BPH	
KA3YTS	KB3IVW	N3INT	N3ZEG	WB3GTL	
KB3ANH	KB3IVX	N3KFD	N3ZEH	WN3BOJ	
KB3CPI	KB3QX	N3MJQ	N3ZEL	WN3VAW	
KB3DCO	KC2JJB	N3PN	N3ZNI		
KB3ENX	KC6VLV	N3QMV	N4MIS	Barbara Misic	
KB3EPI	KD3JV	N3RDV	NP2JF		
KB3ERQ					
KB3FNM					
KB3FQT					

Color Codes:
2003 Member
2002 Member
2001 Member
2000 Member

Through February 28th, 2003
List complied by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

ARRL Concerned over New Threat to 440 MHz

ARRL Web News courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

The ARRL says two FCC-proposed actions could negatively affect Amateur Radio. One would substantially expand the geographical area in the US subject to power limitations on 70 cm. The other would deploy National Weather Service wind-profiler radars in the 448 – 450 MHz segment.

"The Commission has proposed two actions that have a potentially substantial adverse impact on a large number of Amateur Radio operators in this proceeding," the ARRL said in comments filed this month in ET Docket 02-305. "In each case, the Commission can minimize that impact."

In a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* late last fall, the FCC proposed on behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to -- among other things — more than double the size of the geographical area in New Mexico and Texas where amateurs in the 420-450 MHz band would be limited in power to protect military radiolocation service operations. Amateur transmitters in certain geographical areas already are limited to 50 W PEP unless the FCC can reach an agreement with the applicable military frequency coordinator. The *NPRM* also reflects action by NTIA specifying the operation of federal government wind profilers in the band 448-450 MHz.

Acknowledging that the Amateur Service is secondary to government services in the band, the ARRL nonetheless asked the FCC to ensure that the affected zone in Texas and New Mexico "is minimized as much as possible, consistent with protection of military facilities." The ARRL also requested the FCC to create "a streamlined procedure for case-by-case exemptions" from the power restrictions.

"It is difficult for ARRL to address the contention of the Army that amateur power in excess of 50 W PEP in the additional protected areas requested by the Army would cause interference to military radiolocation facilities involved in missile tracking," the League said in its comments, "because the claim made by the Army is not substantiated by any technical information."

In supporting its request via the NTIA, the Army stated that the current restriction boundaries only include the northern half of El Paso — apparently too close for comfort from New Mexico's White Sands Missile Range and to McGregor Range at Ft Bliss. "Amateur operations in the metropolitan area of Albuquerque and Santa Fe present a threat to missiles launched at Fort Wingate, New Mexico," aimed at the airspace over White Sands, the Army said. The Army also said Kirtland Air Force Base now incorporates Department of Defense test and evaluation facilities that use areas south and west of Albuquerque. "Some testing in this area is vulnerable to higher-power amateur operations," the Army said.

The League asserted that it is "most certainly a priority" of hams to avoid interfering with primary government radiolocation facilities. But, the ARRL continued, "it is not intuitively obvious" that such a large restricted area is necessary. The proposed area would include all of New Mexico and all of Texas west of 104 degrees W longitude. The ARRL said the newly proposed area is "in most respects far beyond line-of-sight paths to any military facilities" and does not take "terrain shielding factors" into account.

The ARRL asked the FCC and NTIA to cooperatively evaluate the restriction to determine whether it is, in fact, overly broad. The League also wants the FCC to come up with an expedited method of processing requests for exceptions to the restrictions.

A 50-W power restriction is "not a substantial burden" on many FM repeater users, the ARRL concluded, but it could mean lowering the outputs of some critical repeaters used for emergency and public service work or taking them off the air altogether. It also could affect so-called weak-signal, experimental and Earth-Moon-Earth operations, the ARRL said.

The ARRL estimated that 67 repeaters in the proposed region could be affected. "While not all these utilize output power above 50 W, a substantial number inevitably do and would be required to shut down or have their coverage areas substantially reduced, absent some case-by-case relief," the League's comments asserted. The ARRL offered to act as a repository for granted waivers and to keep an on-line database.

Concerning the wind profilers, the League said it had understood that the National Weather Service — which operates the radars — would notify ARRL of their locations as selected. "Ideally," the League said, "since the amateur repeaters are incumbent in the band now, the National Weather Service should select sites that minimize the effect on those repeaters."

The League said compatibility between wind profilers and amateur operations at 440-450 MHz is possible only if the radar sites are in non-metropolitan areas "and only if there is prior consultation on site selection."

Docket 02-305 is entitled "Amendment of Parts 2, 25, and 87 of the Commission's Rules to Implement Decisions from World Radiocommunication Conferences Concerning Frequency Bands Between 28 MHz and 36 GHz and to Otherwise Update the Rules in this Frequency Range." The proceeding also incorporates RM-10331, to allocate spectrum for government and nongovernment use in the radionavigation-satellite service.

The complete text of the ARRL's comments is available on the FCC Web site.

The text of the *NPRM* in ET Docket 02-305 is available on the FCC Web site. Comments and other documents are available via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) site. Click on "Search for Filed Comments" and enter "02-305" in the "Proceeding" field.

Final Results, WASH 2003 2 Meter Simplex Contest

Courtesy of Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI, Contest Chairman

WASH High Power				WASH Low Power			
CALLSIGN	NAME	Score	QSOs	CALLSIGN	NAME	Score	QSOs
N0VLR	PAUL	2944	55	KB3GMO	TOMMY	3888	39
W3RWS	BOB	2607	43	W3JAF	JEFF	3552	41
N3ZNI	ED	1748	36	KB3CPI	HAROLD	1632	23
N3HKQ	KEVIN	1633	38				
KB3GMP	SHIRLEY	1440	31				
W4ZE	TED	1386	34				
WN3VAW	RON	1060	28				
N3ZEL	JACQUE	816	32				
KB3FZU	FRANK	782	24				
N2QIV	RANDY	532	17				
N0PEU	SHAWN	175	12				
KB3GMU	LORI	168	10				
N0WPV	ANNETTE	168	14				
KB3HVN	DAN	98	7				
WA3JPP	TIPPY	2	7				
Club Stations							
CALLSIGN	NAME	Score	QSOs				
W3LWW	Foothills ARC	10,140	125				
N3SH/M	WASH ARC	4284	84				
W3KWH	Steel City ARC	4264	66				
WA3SH	WASH ARC	2352	46				
Non-Member High Power				Non-Member Low Power			
CALLSIGN	NAME	Score	QSOs	CALLSIGN	NAME	Score	QSOs
N3LZV/M	BRIAN	2040	26				
WO3X	JOHN	1775	38				
KA3KSP	JIM	940	25				
KE0UQ	ROY	598	23				
KB3IFQ	PHILL	253	13				
W3WHO	DOUG	210	11				
KB3DVD	ADOLPH	78	7				
N3TIR	BUD	1800	26				

How Will WRC-2003 Affect FCC Part 97?

Scott Migaldi K9PO ex-KF5JQ courtesy of www.qrz.com

There has been a lot of talk about the removal of the Morse code requirements from amateur radio licensing. The discussion of this item will get more intense as the year continues because it is one of the items that will be discussed by the IARU at the WRC-2003 in Geneva this June. There are a myriad of alphabet soup groups that we as amateurs hear about e.g. ARRL, FCC, IARU, ITU, etc. but there is seldom an explanation about who these groups are, how these group interact and how decisions such as removal of Morse code testing are made. Focusing on Morse code requirement and how it could be removed from FCC Part 97 is what this paper will discuss.

There are many TLAs and ETLAs used in telecommunications and regulatory environments on a regular basis. TLAs or Three Letter Acronyms and ETLAs Extended Three Letter Acronyms are the jargon that is used to describe these regulatory agencies and forums. Some basic groups we know almost right from the beginning of our amateur career are the FCC-Federal Communications Commission and the ARRL-American Radio Relay League. The FCC is the regulatory authority for the United States, this is the agency that makes the rules that we as amateurs have to follow. Those rules for the amateur radio service are contained in the Code of Federal Regulation Title 47 Part 97 (47CFR97) or just Part 97 for short. The ARRL is a forum that represents amateur radio operators from the US to international and national agencies, these are the guys that lobby on behalf of us.

There are other international organizations that one may hear about from time to time. One of those is the IARU — International Amateur Radio Union. An individual does not join the IARU, only organized groups of people referred to as 'societies' do, the ARRL, for example, is a member of the IARU and other country's amateur radio interest groups belong as well. The primary interest of the IARU is to act as a sounding board for their members to work out positions related to spectrum. This is not to say they do not get involved in other topics, they do, Morse code for one, but they primarily discuss spectrum related issues. The IARU also attends meetings of the ITU, more about them later, to represent the amateur viewpoint to the global regulators. For our example of Morse code testing, it is the IARU that took up the position that requirements be dropped to 5 wpm, but they do not have any authority to actually change the rules. To do that they need to convince the regulatory authorities in each country that has an amateur radio service.

The ITU — International Telecommunications Union — is a global regulatory authority charted as part of the United Nations that develops regulatory criteria and standards for all aspects of telecommunications including how spectrum is organized. The ITU is comprised of three groups the Radio Group (ITU-R) the Telecommunications Network Group (ITU-T), and a group that works with nations that are still developing their communications infrastructures (ITU-D). The ITU has also divided the globe into three regions. Region 1 is Europe, Africa, and all of Russia, Region 2 is North and South America, and Region 3 is everywhere else (Asia, Australia, Oceania). Each of the ITU group is even further divided into study groups and working parties that are charged with the development of a particular technology or service.

The Amateur Radio Service is found in ITU-R SG8 WP8A. WP8A also works on the Amateur Satellite Service and land mobile (police and fire department systems) but not cellular systems. It is WP8A that writes and maintains a specification call M.1544 Minimum Qualification for Radio Amateurs. This is where the one can find the first mention of Morse code being a requirement for operation below 30 MHz* written down and it is the authority for the FCC to

require, as a minimum, 5 wpm Morse testing for HF operation. Since this is a global standard issued by the UN (remember the ITU is an agency of the UN) those members of the UN are bound to follow the specification or face sanctions. This means that the FCC cannot unilaterally remove the Morse code testing requirement but can set the minimum to 5 wpm. The FCC could and has set the maximum higher i.e. 13 wpm, 20 wpm, etc.

This now sets the stage for our example of the possible elimination of the Morse requirement. The IARU has already adopted the position that it supports "the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz." This position comes from the member societies and follows procedures that are very similar to any democratic process. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and voted on, a majority of members supported this position and it was approved as a resolution and official lobbying position. Incidentally, the ARRL has voted to against this resolution at IARU meetings.

With the resolution in hand the IARU now approaches the ITU. The next big opportunity for this happens this June and it is called the World Radio Conference 2003 (WRC-2003). The WRC, formally called World Administrative Radio Conferences, WARCs, are were many of the really big decisions will occur and they take place every three years. At WARC-1979 a decision was made to increase spectrum for hams around the globe and thus was born the WARC bands (10, 18, and 24MHz). These WRCs are a pretty big affair and it takes several years to prepare and lobby positions for them. Many items will be up for discussion and even the IARU has more on their agenda than just Morse testing.

But lets continue to keep focus on our example and it holds true for the other items as well. If the WRC approves the IARU resolution ITU-R WP8A will revise the standard M.1544, the approval process will take some time, as members of WP8A are allowed to raise any issue they may have with the language of the standards. But once approved the national regulatory authorities are now free to implement any part of it as long as they meet the minimum requirements. For the U.S. the regulatory authority is the FCC and they may initiate an update of part 97. But they are not the only ones that may initiate the action.

The FCC sometimes on its own will start and update a rule but any citizen or U.S. company can also request an update to a rule. A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) is developed and opened for comment, and that mean comments from anyone. That could be you or me, or company ABC or the ARRL, etc. Once those requirements are collected they are reviewed and a final decision will be made based on the will of those who submitted comments. With our Morse requirement example the FCC may choose to not update part 97 and no action will take place until they are requested to change the rules and the comments favor a removal of the requirement. With the NPR it is possible that the result is to keep the Morse testing requirement and that would be in agreement with the minimum performance which is set to no Morse code or eliminate it all together.

The process seems big and cumbersome but it does work. The question is how can you get involved. First, join the ARRL, but don't stay at home and read your QST. You have to let those that are in the decision making positions know your thoughts. At least twice a year the ARRL holds meetings to review topics and understand what the membership wants. This is what your Division Directors¹ do, they represent you to the ARRL, their primary duty to ensure the preservation and expansion of our hobby continues. They cannot do this unless they know what the ham community needs and you thought they just had met and greets at hamfests.

The process that was reviewed is not just the process for the Morse code requirements that will be taken up this summer but also for other topics such as 7MHz issue with broadcasters, the development of a global ham license, RFI, and many others. I highly recommend you visit <http://www.iaru.org/iaru-index.html#wrc2003> and review the many topics and see if one is of interest to you. Then tell your division director of the ARRL.

¹ The ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section is part of the Atlantic Division. The Atlantic Division Director is Bernie Fuller N3EFN n3efn@arrl.org, and the Division Vice-Director is Bill Edgar N3LLR n3llr@arrl.org

Dayton Hamvention® 2003 University of Dayton Room Reservations

Greg KQ3DX has reserved five suites again at the University of Dayton for Dayton 2003. Each suite has two two-bed rooms, a kitchenette, bathroom, and living room area, and comfortably holds 4 people.

At last report, not all of the spaces had been spoken for yet. One room was returned, but there is still some space available in some of the remaining rooms. Also, some rooms are reserved for the entire weekend, others for Friday & Saturday only (for those returning home Saturday Night). Your net cost will depend on which room you are in and how many you share it with.

If you are interested, please contact Greg at kq3dx@hotmail.com. He was billed in January and should be able to tell you total costs now.

Need Cookies?

Brownie Troop #796 of the Girl Scouts of South Western Pennsylvania will be selling Girl Scout Cookies on Tuesday, March 4th, at the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall, starting at 7:00 PM.

Snow? What "Overnight 1-3 Inches" of Snow?

Photos from WASHFest 2003... all photos this page courtesy of & ©2003 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL



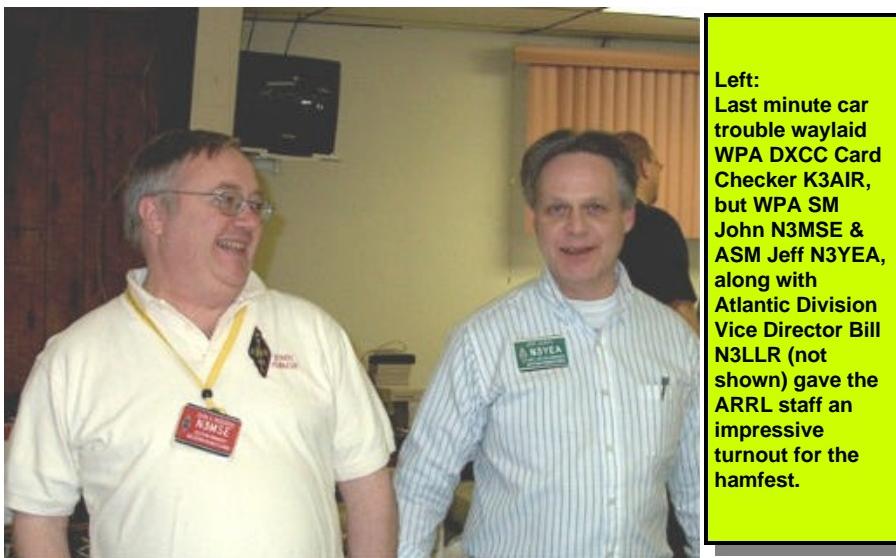
Left: We were going to make the obvious "new candidates for the Hair Club for Men" type joke, but we'll refrain... John N3ZNG, Chris NM3M, Ed N3UE

Below: Bill W3WH presenting Christopher KB3IJX with his commemorative mug from the 2003 WASH 2 Meter contest.

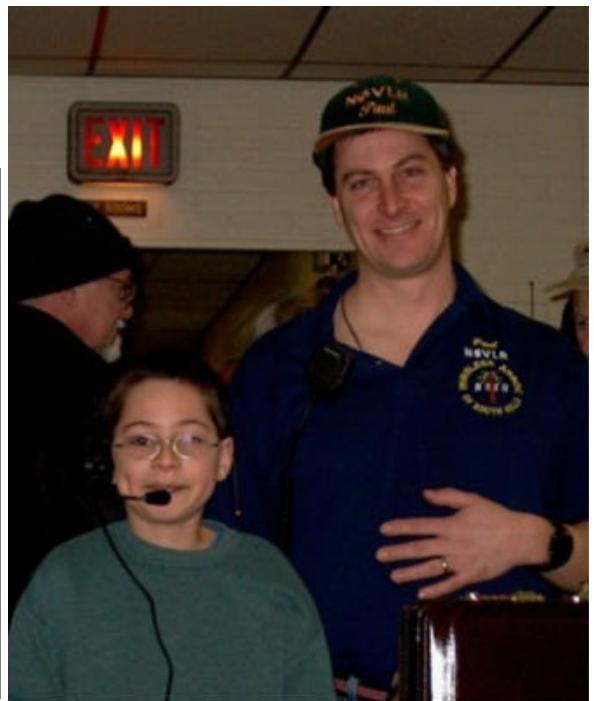


Left: Waiting for the coffee to hit, Larry K3VX and Paul NØVLR found themselves in the grasp of Ed N3ZNI.

Below: Only two Lusardi's came to the hamfest this year... Michael & Paul — the rest of the clan stayed home this time



Left:
Last minute car trouble waylaid WPA DXCC Card Checker K3AIR, but WPA SM John N3MSE & ASM Jeff N3YEA, along with Atlantic Division Vice Director Bill N3LLR (not shown) gave the ARRL staff an impressive turnout for the hamfest.



Why Do You Contest?

Ward Sliver NØAX courtesy of the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

This is a fun question. I'm not talking about, "What is it with contestants?", often asked in frustration by someone feeling a bit crowded. But rather, about what draws you to the radio-weekend after weekend — to holler into the microphone or pound on the keyboard in pursuit of...what?

Let's see — there are the competitors that fight for a spot at the lofty top. They want The Plaque that says "Ultimate Champion". At the very least they want to be in The Box -- one of the Top Ten. They plan, they prepare, they strategize, they fret, they fly great distances, they push the envelope. And by golly, they DO appear in the boxes time after time after time with excellent scores that just seem to get higher every year. These folks are after RATE & MULTS & SCORE & lots of it. Their first question on Monday morning is, "When's the next contest?"

There are the "DX-ers" that use contests as a vehicle to make QSOs that count for any number of awards -- DXCC, WAZ, WAS, IOTA, you name it. They don't mind sitting in a screaming packet pileup for fifteen minutes, because the station in the Italian Virgin Islands is a New One! Many QRP operators LOVE contests for this reason -- the Big Guns are out in force looking for Every Single QSO, including that puny weak cross-continental contact on 80-meters the QRP-er needs for 5B-WAS. The band-mode collector, the Medium Pistol, the wallpaper chaser — all keep the bands busy.

Casual operators abound. A few hours here, an hour there, they like finding the bands packed and enjoy an afternoon of radio slam dancing. When the dinner bell rings, they're probably through, but in the meantime a hundred or more QSOs went in the logs of other competitors. It's an operating breath of fresh air that fits in nicely with the local club repeater, the weekly emergency services net, and the schedule with Fred in Arizona on Thursday afternoons.

Newly licensed operators are continually discovering the sport and working up the nerve to push the mike button and call Mr. Big Gun 40-over-9 200-per-hour. Yikes! He answered! It's like getting a handshake from Tiger Woods. Send a QSL? You bet! He's where? I talked to what? There may be only ten QSOs in that contest log, but you can bet that each one was an accomplishment.

The strange thing about radio contesting is...those operators are all in there TOGETHER. No other sport puts all levels of competitors in the same arena at the same time and requires them to cooperate. In fact, in no other sport are the competitors measured by their ability to cooperate. To be sure, there is competitive pressure -- just try to get a frequency within 20 kHz of the band edge — but the competition is to see who can cooperate the best, the fastest, the most-est. Weird, huh?

No matter why you do it — as a Major Dude or on the What-Do-I-Say-Now level — your presence is required and accepted. I have been all of the above kinds of competitor (although my plaques are few) and have never been made to feel anything but welcome on the air. I admit, some of the welcoming takes place in about 10 microseconds, but by golly, my QSOs add to a score just as much as from somebody in the Hall of Fame and we all put our antennas together one element at a time.

When I was helping to host the first WRTC back in 1990 and all these famous callsigns were showing up at the various functions, my wife asked me how long I'd known these guys. My instant answer was, "Years!" Even though, on reflection, our cumulative interaction probably totaled no more than five minutes and our scores couldn't have been farther apart, I felt like each one was a trusted friend. Hey, they're contestants, right?

I guess that's why I contest.

Here at CSS, we offer the following products to school clubs that have a club callsign at no charge:

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www.cssincorp.com

— Richard Ruhl W4PC

Silent Keys



Fred Rodgers, 74, Mr. Roger's Neighborhood, February 27th

DX News Briefs



JF6OJX/7N4AHT/KH7J will be active as **3D2JX** from Mana Island, FIJI (IOTA OC-121) between April 19th and 24th. He will especially try to operate on low bands 80-30m for EU, but he will also be QRV on 20m-6m (160m if possible). QSL manager via JN1HOW — JJ1LIB/N1GO

"By special arrangement with the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Radio Sports Association, Rick **AE3C** and his 10-year old daughter Barbara **KB3HAS** will be operating (SSB and CW) at various locations in **Beijing** and northern mainland **China** until 11 March. QSL via home calls — N3YEAA

The Kermadec DX Association has received the blank **ZL7C** cards and completed processing of most direct requests received by 26 February. They are expected to be mailed by economy post on or about 1 March 2003. Because of the time involved, they request that you do not make 2nd requests prior to 1 May 2003; they will not process 2nd requests before then. Bureau cards and direct cards received with insufficient postage funds are now being processed as time permits, and will be returned via the bureau — ZL4HU

The Slovak Embassy in Baghdad closed in February, resulting in **YI1BGD** going QRT. OM2DX is on his way home. OM3JW will get the last logs from Mike on his return. QSL via OM3JW — OM3JW

On-line log searches for **AH3D** are now available. In order to check the AH3D log search you must do the following:

- Send an e-mail to ah3d-log@n4gn.com
- Subject: "Call" - only one call per subject line
- body of message should be blank

Response takes anywhere from 90 seconds to 5 minutes — W3UR

The new direct (only) QSL route for **K1B** has had an "overwhelming response." All cards on hand have been sent, but a new shipment of blank cards is due from the printer "any day." The new route is via K4YL (ex-W4SMG). Remember, bureau cards continue to go to RZ3AA for SSB QSO's and YT1AD for CW & Digital mode QSO's — K4SV

Due to the fluctuating value of the dollar vs. the euro, it now requires \$2 to cover return postage from most of Europe. However, many countries will still accept 1 IRC for priority mail up to 20 grams — SM5DQC

AC7DX is the new QSL Manager for Contest Station **LT1F**, along with **LU1FKR**, **VP8SSI** & **3YØPI** — AC7DX

YO9HP will be returning to Oman March 3rd as **A45WD**, and should be QRV by the 5th. He has responded to "99%" of received QSL cards, with the last "40-50" to go into the mail before his return. He asks that anyone who does not receive an expected card to wait 2 weeks and then e-mail him at a45wd@yahoo.com with the QSO details so that he can work on the problem — YO9HP

The Low Land Dxpedition Team plan to activate **OY Faroe Islands** March 24th — April 3rd. A special call has been requested for the 80 & 160 meters and the CQ WPX contest, otherwise it will be OY/ home call. QSL via PA5ET — PA5ET

The Sir Francis Drake Report:

"**ZR2A**" showed up on 15 meters (phone & CW) on February 28th, giving LU6EF as his QSL Manager. LU6EF, when contacted by G4AYO, responds that he does not know the station and is not his manager — LU6EF

QSL Routes

3C2MV via VE6JO — W3AWU

3D2JX via JN1HOW — JJ1LIB

3XY7C via DL7DF — N5PHT

4L8A via OZ1HPS — N5PHT

4W6GH via CT1EGH — VA5DX

5X1CW via F6GQX — W3AWU

9N7YJ via LA5YJ — W9IXX

9UØX via DJ6SI — W7LPF

A45WD via YO9HP — YO9HP

A92ZE via K4XST — KE9KD

C6AKQ via N4BP — N5PHT, W9OL

CN8YR via K4KU — N5PHT

CO8LY via EA7ADH — N5PHT

CYØMM via VE3NE — VE3EXY

D2BB via W3HNK — W9OL

HV4NAC via IKØFVC — KE9KD

J28EW via F5LDY — W4YCH

J38X via K1XX — W7LPF

J45PC via OM3PC — W9OL

KC4AAA via K1IED — W1TW

LT1F via AC7DX — AC7DX

LU1FKR via AC7DX — AC7DX

SØ7U via JA1UT — K4KU

T2T via JN1HOW — N5PHT

TY9F via F5CWU — W4YCH

UU7J via W1TE — W1TE

UUØJM via W1TE — W1TE

VP2VW via W4RM — ZS6IR

XT2DX via G3SXW — N5PHT

Z31X via DJØLZ — W7LPF

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, Diamond DX Club News, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our **DX News** information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McCleeny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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Common Signature Line amongst BoatAnchor Enthusiasts:

My Designated Driver is a 12BY7

Note: If you have to ask someone "what's type of lumber is a twelve by seven?", then you're not ready for the OOTC!

FYI Networks, an Internet Service Provider in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of **WASH** their Basic Internet account for only \$18 / month. This includes one e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet and FTP access. Call FYI toll-free at 1-877-FYI-4NET, or e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, for more details or to sign up. You must mention that you are a member of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** to get the discount rate.

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FCC News

ARRL Web Extra & ARRL Letter, courtesy American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, January 31st, 2003 — The FCC has canceled the license of a Michigan Amateur Radio operator and told him he may not apply for another ham ticket until 2007. The Commission took the action against Thomas A. Brothers, ex-KI8BE, of Berkley, because he'd been the operator of an unlicensed FM "pirate" radio station.



FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote Brothers February 14 to confirm receipt of his amateur license--which Brothers had agreed to surrender. The FCC also had imposed a \$10,000 fine against Brothers, who's in his early 20s, but rescinded the forfeiture last December because of Brothers' demonstrated inability to pay. Brothers' Advanced class ticket was cancelled December 5, 2002. He had been licensed since 1997 and formerly held the call sign KC8CRI. Hollingsworth said he requested the five-year reapplication hiatus.

FCC sources say the Commission's Detroit Field Office became aware as early as 1998 that Brothers was operating an FM pirate radio station on 88.3 MHz from his home. An FCC agent used direction-finding gear to track the signal to Brothers' residence, where the agent also spotted an antenna. The agent unsuccessfully attempted to inspect the station, but the FCC did send Brothers a *Warning Notice* ordering him off the air.

In July 1998, Brothers reportedly admitted to FCC agents that he had been broadcasting without a license and said he would cease operation. By 2000, however, he was back on the air, and an agent from the Detroit Field Office again traced a pirate broadcast signal to Brothers' home. He was issued another *Warning Notice* and ordered to stop transmitting.

In August 2001, the FCC Detroit Field Office received an anonymous telephone call alerting them of a pirate broadcaster on 88.3 MHz--this time giving out a telephone number over the air. Once again, the signal was traced to Brothers' residence, where agents attempted to inspect his station. On that occasion, Brothers reportedly claimed he had not been on the air, but he received another *Warning Notice*.

In January 2002, the FCC issued Brothers a *Notice of Apparent Liability* for \$10,000 for repeatedly violating Section 301 of the Communications Act by operating an FM station without a license. The fine was affirmed last June in a *Forfeiture Order* that also noted that Brothers had not responded to the *NAL*.

The FCC said that, in his *Petition for Reconsideration*, Brothers did not dispute that he willfully and repeatedly has violated Section 301, but he asked the FCC to cancel the fine because — among other factors — his inability to pay. The FCC said Brothers backed up his claim with financial documentation. With the fine rescinded, the Detroit Field Office turned the case over to Hollingsworth late last year to consider sanctions against Brothers' Amateur Radio license.

Brothers' case was reminiscent of the case of Leslie D. "Doug" Brewer, ex-KC4HAZ, of Tampa, Florida, who lost his ham radio and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licenses in 2001 and was fined \$11,000 for operating a pirate radio station and for "other unlawful activities." The FCC also said that Brewer lacked "the basic character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee." FCC and other sources say Brewer operated "The Party Pirate" on 102.1 MHz from his home in the 1990s.

In other Amateur Radio-related enforcement actions, the FCC sent a *Warning Notice* to George Albrecht, N8PGB, of Lansing, Michigan, citing monitoring information that indicated the licensee was "deliberately interfering with the W8LCC repeater system" on 442.025 MHz by "sending unidentified transmissions and keying down to cause sound effects from the link to 52.525 MHz."

The FCC also notified David L. Price, WA6FUL, of Redwood City, California, that he may not operate his repeaters under automatic control while the Enforcement Bureau reviews alleged rules violations that include "failure to identify and transmitting false call signs."

Glenn B. Roberts, KF6YRY, of Tujunga, California, also received an FCC *Warning Notice* alleging deliberate interference with the N6SAP VHF repeater that included "music and other unidentified transmissions from your mobile unit."

Hollingsworth warned all three licensees of the possibility of fines and revocation proceedings if the alleged problems continue.

"The most common elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity."

— Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH quoting Bill Cross W3TN,
FCC Forum, Dayton 2002

Greensburg Hamfest

Sunday, March 2nd, 2003 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Sponsored by the Foothills Amateur Radio Club

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Talk-In on 147.180+ Repeater

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Kevin Berry KF4RMA kf4rma@arrl.net 724-586-1182

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Sunday, March 23rd 2003 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

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Talk-In on 147.120 MHz — Mobile Check-In on 146.520 MHz

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4th Prize: ICOM IC-Q7A Dual Band HT

For More Information, Call 412-664-1683, Fax 412-751-0562, e-mail w3oc@arrl.net

For VE Testing, Call 412-678-1208 or 412-664-1683, e-mail w3oc@arrl.net

Inside This Issue:

- **WASHFest 2003** Wrap-Up, Main Prize Winners, and Pictures!
- 2 Meter Simplex Contest Final Results!
- Another threat to the 70 cm Band!
- Local hams to be DX'ing from BY!
- **New Meeting Location**

All this and more... waiting for your right inside these pages...



"Some Guys Have All The Luck!"

WASHFest Co-Chairman Bill Hill W3WH presenting Bill Kristoff N3BPB with the Hamfest's First Prize, a Yaesu FT-817. Bill has managed to win First Prize for the second year in a row... and for the second year in a row, he had to be raised on the 147.09 repeater & asked to turn around & come back & get it! (Don't tell him, but next year, we're thinking of hiding his ticket stubs!)

More WASHFest pictures and information inside!

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The WASHRag

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N3SH / WA3SH
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Annual Post-WASHFest Pizza Night

**Meeting Now At the
Peters Township Library**

Details on Page 3